



Beaver County Emergency Services

Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 3, Issue 4

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION CONDUCTS FEDERALLY EVALUATED EXERCISE

By Ed Barth



Beaver County Emergency Operations Center staff participate in the June 24th evaluated exercise.

On December 7, 1979, the President of the United States directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assume lead responsibility for all off-site planning and response to nuclear power plant incidents. Regulations were written and became law under Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 350, 351 and 352. These regulations are a key element in the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program that was established following the Three Mile Island accident in March of 1979.

On June 24, 2008, a full scale exercise was conducted in the 10 mile emergency planning zone

(EPZ) around the Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS) by the Department of Homeland Security (FEMA). Out of sequence demonstrations were conducted on May 14, 2008. The purpose

of the exercise and out of sequence demonstrations was to assess the level of State and local preparedness in responding to a radiological emergency.

The exercise and out of sequence demonstrations included volunteers from the 27 municipalities, 11 school districts, three states, and three counties within the EPZ and four support counties outside the EPZ. In all, there were 60 locations evaluated by 68 evaluators using 350 different criteria.

A draft report has been issued, and the preliminary results for Beaver County are one Area Requiring Corrective Action (ARCA) and two Planning Issues. They are as follows:

- ARCA - At a municipal EOC, the communications officer did not notify special needs facilities at the Alert classification level, as specified in their plan at the appropriate time.
- Planning Issue No 1. – Special Needs populations were not immediately notified that there was an incident on-going at the plant and to tune to their Emergency Alert System stations. The plan lacked clarity, and there was confusion on the part of the municipal EOC staff as to when this had to be done.
- Planning Issue No 2. – Special Needs cards that are completed and sent to the County by the residents do not describe in detail what the residents' special needs are. For example, the type of vehicle that is necessary to transport them, should an evacuation be ordered, needs to be specified.

Although there were two planning issues and one ARCA, the exercise did show that the offsite agencies were well prepared to protect the health and safety of the general public, and the county was once again pleased with the outcome of the exercise.

AUTUMN, 2008

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THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Wesley Hill

I would like to take time and review with you some of the projects Emergency Services currently has underway. 2008 has been a busy year, and it looks like this will not change as we approach and enter 2009. We are in full swing with several projects that, once completed, will make our communications, operations, and our facility second to none in the nation.

Let me start by updating everyone on our new communications system. I remember talking with a lot of you, especially with the firefighters, during the first quarter of 2008, about how the communications upgrade would be a lengthy process with many possible bumps and bruises. Well, it has had its bumps and bruises, but lengthy, I am not so sure. The county's fire departments have stepped up to the plate and worked hard in obtaining funds and changing out equipment. Their readiness has been so great that it has reached the point that the fire departments are actually now ahead of where the county planned for them to be at this point in the upgrade process.

Once again, we have not yet reached our communications goal, but we will be there soon. Most fire departments have already purchased new equipment and have switched over to high band.

Law enforcement agencies will be upgraded next. We have already implemented a new, across the board radio standard. The county will be ready to start implementing changes, obtaining new equipment, and, oh yea, some

more bumps and bruises can be expected along the way. From this point

on, we will be continuing to update communications with both law enforcement and the fire services, which will make things that much more interesting. The medical side of the house will be upgraded last, but saying that only means that everything that we have done to this point should make

tion and L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Emergency Services will submit our layers of the mapping project to Intergraph Corporation so that those layers can be utilized within the new CAD system. Intergraph's CAD software will be partnered with the new radio system that is being installed as



EMS operations that much easier. I ask you all again, please bear with us as we move toward reaching our communications goals. We can and will make it work.

Another project that has been a long time in coming and is now in the final stages is the implementation of the

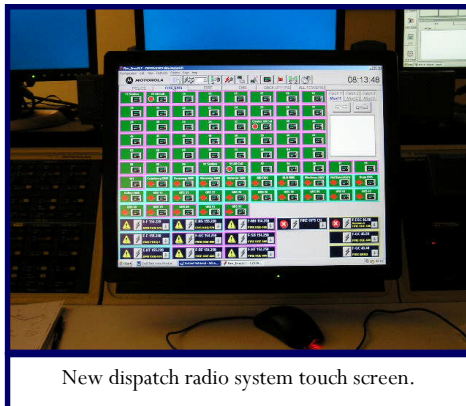
county's GIS (Geographic Information System) project. This is a project that will benefit many county agencies, and it will be instrumental in the operation of the new 9-1-1 CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system.

Once the project is turned over to the county from Michael Baker Corpora-

tion we speak for a complete 9-1-1 dispatch upgrade. Needless to say, this is another one of those projects that will continue to grow and be of benefit to many within the county.

Regarding the new CAD project recently approved: this is an upgrade that, once completed, will enhance the communicator's ability to assist the responder in doing their job in a more efficient and effective way. As I mentioned above, it will be a direct part of the GIS project, which will allow better location of 9-1-1 callers for use by response agencies. This project will take the better part of the next year to complete, and again, Emergency Services is directly involved in its development to insure ease of use and the implementation of the best product available.

The final project that I would like to



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER, CONT.

mention is the county's new Emergency Services Center. As many of you know, the center will be located in Ambridge Borough on the site of the old H.H. Robertson plant. Currently, we are in the final design phase of the building, and hopefully by the time you are reading this, we will be in the bid phase of the project. If everything goes as planned, we should see vertical construction beginning in October of 2008,

and hopefully by the end of 2009, we will all be the proud owners of a state of the art communications center, EOC (Emergency Operations Center), and administrative office space where planning and training will take place for years to come. This is a combined effort of many, but credit needs to be given to the Beaver County Board of Commissioners who saw the need for an upgraded Emergency Services Center and once again

approved and supported the emergency responders and, more so, the citizens and businesses of Beaver County.

So, as you can see, this *has* been a busy year, and 2009 promises to be just as busy or more so. Once again, I ask for your support and your patience. Many individuals will spend many hours working toward these goals, and the results will all be worth it... *Wes*

BC ESC OPEN HOUSE HELD By Eric Brewer

The Beaver County Emergency Services held an "Equipment Display" open house on July 31st at the Haz-Mat Garage on Route 51. This evening event was meant to give everyone a chance to see the equipment that has been acquired over the last few years to build our specialized teams and response capabilities and to give local agencies a chance to learn more about how each team works and to what types of incidents the teams respond. We need to be more successful in developing working relationships between the agencies, Emergency Management folks, Homeland Security, Regional Task Forces, first responders and others involved in actual emergencies.

The glue necessary to make it all come together effectively in an emergency event was well defined in a recent Federal report on the I35 Bridge collapse (Mississippi River Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 1, 2007). "When key personnel from the primary response agencies were asked to what they attributed their excellent response, without exception they answered, '**Relationships**'. Those relationships were developed as a result of all the planning, training, and exercises that multiple agencies and levels of government shared in recent years. Responders knew whom to call for what resources. They knew to work through the established chain of command. They knew each other's names and faces and had built a level of trust that made it possible to move quickly through channels and procedures."

Building relationships and establishing true partnerships are the goals that we should be striving to meet at every level of emergency services.



NEWS & NOTES

- Quarterly training for **Beaver County Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators** was held on July 22nd. Kevin Joy and Ed Barth led the training, which consisted of Special Needs management discussion, NIMS Compliance updates, Knowledge Center training, and an Evaluated Exercise review. The last quarterly training session for 2008 is scheduled for October 21st at the Emergency Services Center with two times available, 1 - 3 PM or 6 - 8 PM.
- The federal government has now released their **FY 2008 National Incident Management System Compliance Metrics**. To make the 2008 update easier for municipalities, the state has issued a two page form to be completed and returned to the county for data compilation by **September 15th**. These forms were sent by mail to Municipal Elected Officials at the end of July, with copies also going to Municipal EMA Coordinators. Municipalities are asked to call 724-775-1700 with any questions regarding the FY08 Compliance Metrics.
- **American Messaging Paging** has limited their representative's site visits. For service issues, including pager replacements, please access your paging account online or contact customer service at 888-223-4123. For sales or account issues, Mary Rosenberg can be reached at 330-215-2294.



EMS NEWS

By Eric Brewer,
Beaver County EMS Coordinator



Statewide Protocols

The Pennsylvania Statewide Protocols have been updated and are effective November 1, 2008. However, they may be used as soon as they are adopted by the EMS region. Several resources will be available to assist the ALS personnel in becoming familiar with the protocol updates. These include an in-service presentation that will be available to regions and services and educational information on the Learning Management System (LMS). There were a couple protocols added as well as several changes made to the existing ones.

State EMS Conference

The PEHSC EMS Conference was held during the week of August 11th in Hershey. There were several classes offered as well as several displays of equipment. One of the displays was at Ft. Indiantown Gap, where, for the first time, all of the PA DOH strike teams set up their equipment for CCP's (Casualty Collection Points). Medic Rescue is now part of that team, which is part the EMSI Region's Strike Team. A Strike Team consists of a set number of resources of the same kind and type that have an established minimum number of personnel, common communications, and a leader.

New Faces

- *Commonwealth Medical Center* has named *Kurt Ellefson* as their new EMS coordinator and lead for emergency preparedness.
- *Lifeflight* has a new outreach representative for Beaver County, *Robert Twaddle*.

"Take Me Home" Program

Economy EMS has implemented the nationally recognized "Take Me Home" program (formerly Project Lifesaver) for the tracking of Alzheimer's patients, children with autism, and other special needs individuals, who, if lost, can be located through the use of an electronic receiver. Economy EMS purchased the monitoring equipment through a grant which also included the electronic tracking bracelets to be worn by the clients. In addition, the Pennsylvania State Police have been given a tracking device to place in their aviation unit which will be used to support ground units during a search. Once teams are deployed, the average time that a missing person wearing a tracking bracelet has been found has been under 45 minutes.

Upcoming Dates

- QRS meeting: Wednesday September 17th
- MMRS: September 11th

Eric Brewer can be reached at: ebrewer@beavercountypa.gov

AUTUMN SAFETY TIPS

Compiled by Schuyler Mu

Tips for Raking & Bagging Leaves from www.aarp.org

- A 135-pound person could burn about 240 calories raking leaves for an hour. Warm up and cool down with stretches, and take breaks if the job is large. Don't be a weekend athlete and try to bag all the leaves at once.
- Pay attention to your raking posture, and be careful not to twist your spine. Instead, move your whole body (think of a rotating chair), not going farther than your feet will allow.
- Switch sides. People tend to rake on one side of their body, which increases the risk of injury since raking uses the same muscles to do the same movement over and over. To avoid overuse injury, try switching sides every few minutes.
- Don't lift bags with your back; bend your knees and lift with your legs. Don't overfill bags so they become too heavy to lift.
- If using a tarp to drag leaves to a curb, don't overload it. If possible, have someone grab an opposite end to help you.
- Too many leaves to bag? As an alternative, consider composting your leaves or using them to cover your garden for winter.

Timely Tips from the National Weather Service, www.seco.noaa.gov

- *Cleaning leaves from your gutters?* Ladder injuries increase in autumn, so remember to: Use the right ladder for the job and always inspect it before use. For every 4 feet of the ladder's length, come out 1 foot from the wall. Remember that a metal ladder + electricity = death. And never overreach!
- *Helpful Hint:* Wet leaves on roadways make for slick spots that can cause a vehicle to slide as if it's on ice.
- *Fall Back Reminder:* 94% of homes in the U.S. have at least one smoke alarm, but 30% of reported fires occur in homes where the smoke alarm did not work. On November 2nd, most Americans will turn their clocks back; during the changes in time, it is recommended that you change your fire alarms' batteries and test them.

Halloween Safety Tips Adapted from an article written by [Leigh-Anne Dennison](#), Managing Editor, RedCross.org

A Look at Costumes:

- Masks can restrict peripheral vision and hearing. If choosing a mask, ensure it fits well, offers good ventilation and has large eye holes. Or, go with non-toxic face paint instead.
- Select light-colored or reflective costumes to be seen by drivers. The same goes for props. If necessary, add reflective tape or trim to brooms, swords, scythes and the all-important candy bag.
- Purchase fire-retardant costumes. Check tags and labels to ensure they are flame-resistant.

Getting to Know Jack:

- Select a stable, flat surface with good lighting for carving your pumpkin.
- Use blunt tools with serrations specially designed for cutting pumpkins; grown-ups should do the cutting.
- Draw and follow patterns on the pumpkin instead of freehand carving, or forego slicing and use paint or markers instead.
- Consider battery-operated, electric lights, or glow sticks as a safe way to illuminate your squash creation.

Thanksgiving Safety Tips Adapted from an article written by [Katie Lawson](#), Staff Writer, Redcross.org

- If cooking is a family affair, always supervise young helpers and keep sharp objects and hot pots & pans out of their reach... In the event of a burn, run cool tap water over the affected area to soothe the skin before covering the burn with a sterile cloth... If the burn is severe and blistering occurs, seek medical attention or call 9-1-1 for more assistance...
- Choking is another prevalent hazard at Thanksgiving. Crudités and other appetizers with bite size portions can be dangerous for young children who may not be able to chew them adequately. Keep these nibbles out of their reach, unless supervised by an adult, to prevent choking... And when you stick those kids at the kiddie table, cut their food for them into small, chewable pieces, keep an eye on them and remind them often to chew their food thoroughly...
- Don't forget about those four-legged family members too. It is certainly tempting to throw a bone to your well-behaved pooch, but don't give in to temptation. Poultry bones are hollow, so they break and splinter easily, which can cause pets to choke or do even worse damage to their digestive systems. Also, use care in sharing other table scraps with pets as their canine and feline systems may have trouble with the rich holiday foods. Stick to pet food and treats – they'll thank you for it.

SEPTEMBER 2008

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2008

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2008

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- **1st:** Labor Day, County Offices Closed
- **3rd:** Hazmat Team Training, Hazmat Garage 6:30 PM
- **3rd & 4th:** BVPS Offsite Agency Training & Risk EMAC Dinner, The Fez, Hopewell Township
- **8th:** 17th Annual Golf Outing, Hawthorne Valley Golf Club
- **10th:** Fire Association Meeting, Hazmat Garage 7 PM
- **13th - 17th:** Emergency Management Conference & Task Force Symposium, State College
- **17th:** QRS Meeting 10 AM
- **17th:** Hazmat Refresher Training for Law Enforcement Personnel, Hazmat Garage 1 PM
- **17th:** Hazmat Team Training, Hazmat Garage 6:30 PM
- **21st:** United Valley REACT Meeting, 6 PM
- **22nd:** Autumn Begins
- **24th:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7 PM
- **1st:** Hazmat Team Training, Hazmat Garage 6:30 PM
- **8th:** Fire Association Meeting, Hazmat Garage 7 PM
- **13th:** Columbus Day, County Offices Closed
- **14th:** LEPC Meeting, Noon
- **15th:** Hazmat Team Training, Hazmat Garage 6:30 PM
- **19th:** United Valley REACT Meeting, 6 PM
- **21st:** Municipal EMAC Training, 1 - 3 & 6 - 8 PM
- **22nd:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7 PM
- **31st:** Halloween
- **2nd:** Daylight Savings Time Ends, Fall Back!
- **4th:** Election Day, County Offices Closed
- **5th:** Hazmat Team Training, Hazmat Garage 6:30 PM
- **11th:** Veteran's Day, County Offices Closed
- **12th:** Fire Association Meeting, Hazmat Garage 7 PM
- **13th:** Photo ID Session, Hazmat Garage 1 - 7 PM
- **16th:** United Valley REACT Meeting, 6 PM
- **18th:** EMS Providers Meeting, 10 AM
- **19th:** Hazmat Team Training, Hazmat Garage 6:30 PM
- **19th:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7 PM
- **27th - 28th:** Thanksgiving Holiday, County Offices Closed

ALL EVENTS LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



EMERGENCY SERVICES

250 East End Avenue
Beaver, PA 15009
724-775-1700

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Beaver County Courthouse • 810 Third Street • Beaver, PA 15009
724-728-3934 • www.beavercountypa.gov

Want to contribute?
E-mail the editor,
Schuyler Mu , at
smu@beavercountypa.gov

The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services Center (BCESC).

The BCESC is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. The BCESC manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. The BCESC is also the home of the county's Hazmat Team 700, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services.

The BCESC works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to the residents and businesses of Beaver County.

Beaver County Emergency Services
250 East End Avenue
Beaver, PA 15009

